

APPROVED MINUTES
HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH COUNCIL MEETING
September 11, 2001
LBJ Building, Boise, ID - Room 324 / 11:10 am – 12:00 pm

Present:

Darrell Manning, Chair	Jonathan Lawson for Richard Bowen	Dene Thomas	Dennis Stevens
Ron Bitner	Brian Pitcher for Bob Hoover	Lynn Humphrey	

Absent: Bill Shipp John Huffman Chuck Ruch
Guests: Philip Berger Jimmi Sommer

I. Bio-terrorism Presentation by Dr. Phil Berger, Professor of Plant Science and Division Chair, Department of Plant, Soil and Entomological Sciences, University of Idaho

Dr. Berger distributed a packet of information about various eco-terrorism groups, including their web sites and copies of articles that appeared in the Oregonian about the increasing activity in the American West. He described the two confirmed and two unconfirmed attacks at UI research facilities.

The Council discussed several options that might be available to the institutions to prevent future attacks. Those included the establishment of a coalition of private companies, institutions and federal agencies to cooperatively address the problems, seeking funding, perhaps through grants, for increased security, better training for law enforcement, and legislation increasing the penalties for eco-terrorism activity.

It was noted that there is potentially a lot of money at stake, particularly since Idaho is an agricultural state.

It was agreed that the institutional representatives would bring formal recommendations to HERC for their consideration at a future meeting.

II. Minutes of June 5, 2001

MSC (Bitner/Stevens): To approve the minutes of June 5, 2001.

III. FY01 and FY02 HERC Budgets

Ms. Lynn Humphrey presented the actual expenditures for the FY01 budget, and the proposed FY02 budget. Although the FY01 funds had already been expended, Dr. Stevens wanted to go on record as being opposed to HERC money being used to fund Science & Technology Advisory Council initiatives now and in the future. Dr. Stevens asked Ms. Humphrey to request an accounting from the Department of Commerce of the \$50,000 HERC expenditure for the S & T advisory council.

MSC(Stevens/Pitcher): To approve HERC's FY02 budget as written.

IV. Battelle Contract Information

A. Idaho EPSCoR Review

Lynn Humphrey briefly summarized the reasons behind the Board's directive to review the structure and function of the EPSCoR committee. Dr. Pitcher indicated that he would welcome a review of EPSCoR to determine if it is operating as effectively as possible. Dr. Stevens was concerned about the projected cost (\$14,500) for Battelle's review of the EPSCoR committee. He

suggested that the review could be conducted more cost efficiently, perhaps through an impartial in-state review committee and asked how Battelle had been selected. Ms. Humphrey explained that because Dr. Marianne Clarke of Battelle had been contracted with the Idaho Department of Commerce for work for the Governor's Science and Technology Advisory Council (part of which was funded by HERC), the EPSCoR review could be conducted through an extension of the existing contract Battelle had with Commerce.

In light of the Board's action at its April 2001 meeting, and the August 20, 2001 correspondence from the Board's Executive Director, Greg Fitch, to Battelle approving their proposal to conduct the EPSCoR review, it was generally agreed that the Board was committed to Battelle for the work.

B. Benchmarking with Idaho's Intellectual Property Policies and Practices.

Ms. Jimmi Sommer, the board staff member assigned to work with the statewide committee reviewing the Board's intellectual property policy, distributed a written update for HERC's review.

V. Next Meeting

General Manning suggested that HERC meet again in a couple of months.

VI. Other – HERC memberships

Mr. John Huffman's term on HERC has expired and Dr. Stevens' term is set to expire in October 2001. Lynn Humphrey will contact both to determine if they are willing to be reappointed. Dr. Stevens indicated that he would like HERC to take a more active role in promoting research in the state.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.